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The WOOL SITUATION

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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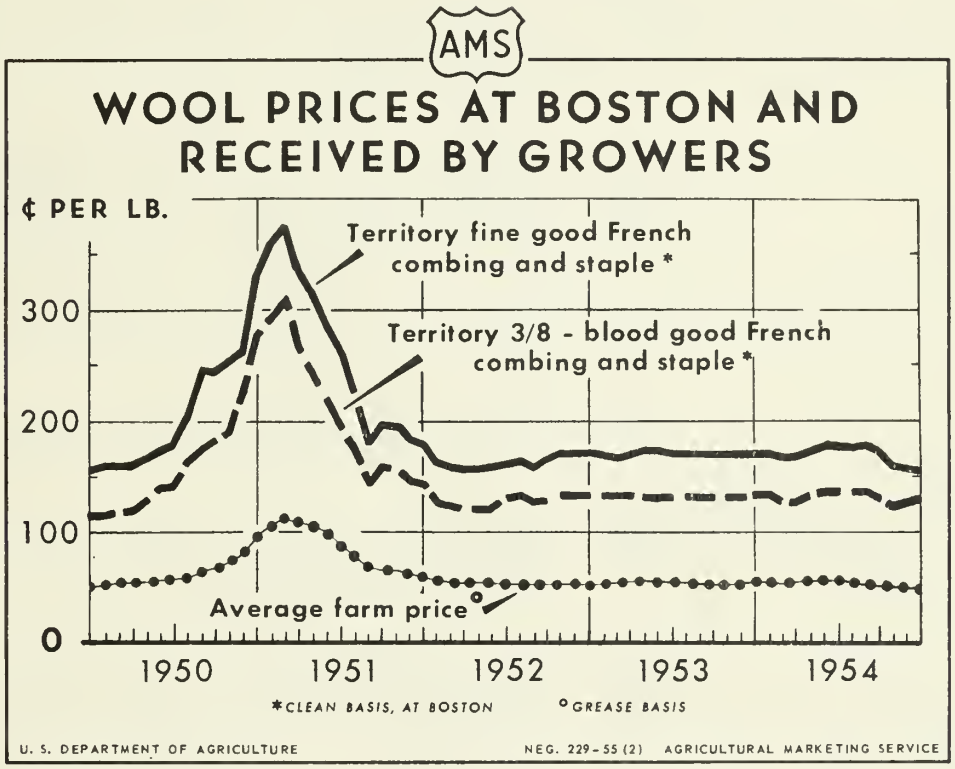

During the first half of the current marketing season Boston quotations for most domestic wools were a little higher than a year earlier. They began to decline early in October, and as of late January most quotations were between 5 and 15 percent below a year earlier. Quotations for most descriptions were above CCC price support loan rates until early November but have been below since then.

The mid-month average of prices received by growers for shorn wool has been slightly below a year earlier since the beginning of the season except in June. It was above the national average support level through August but has been slightly below since then.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

AGRICULTURE - WASHINGTON

STATISTICAL SUMMARY
Part I - Prices

Item	Unit	1953 Oct.	1953 Nov.	1953 Dec.	1954 Jan.	1954 Oct.	1954 Nov.	1954 Dec.	1955 Jan.	Last data available as percent of a year earlier
Wool										
Average price received by farmers, grease basis	Cents per pound	53.9	52.4	52.8	53.1	52.2	51.4	50.7	50.0	94
Parity price	pound	58.0	58.2	58.4	1/	58.3	58.3	58.3	1/	100
Farm as percent of parity	Percent	93	90	90	—	90	88	87	—	
Boston, clean basis 2/	Cents per pound									
Domestic										
Graded territory										
Fine good French combing and staple	do.	172.5	172.5	172.5	172.5	171.2	160.0	156.0	155.0	90
½ blood good French combing and staple	do.	152.5	152.5	152.5	152.5	155.0	143.8	143.1	145.0	95
3/8 blood good French combing and staple	do.	132.5	132.5	132.5	132.5	130.6	123.1	126.4	130.0	98
¼ blood good French combing and staple	do.	120.5	120.0	120.0	120.0	120.0	107.4	107.5	112.9	94
Low ¼ blood	do.	102.5	102.5	104.9	106.5	105.0	92.5	96.5	99.4	93
Common and braid	do.	97.5	97.5	102.5	102.5	98.1	87.5	87.5	90.0	88
Graded fleece										
Delaine	do.	181.2	180.0	180.0	180.8	176.2	165.0	167.5	167.5	93
½ blood good French combing and staple	do.	147.4	147.5	147.9	148.0	144.8	135.0	132.5	133.1	90
3/8 blood good French combing and staple	do.	120.0	120.4	120.5	120.5	119.6	107.5	113.5	114.6	95
¼ blood good French combing and staple	do.	113.6	114.0	112.8	113.2	112.8	102.6	103.6	113.8	101
Low ¼ blood	do.	106.0	106.0	106.3	106.5	105.0	92.5	93.5	99.4	93
Common and braid	do.	95.0	95.0	101.0	101.0	96.2	87.5	87.5	90.0	89
Original bag Texas										
Fine 12 months good French combing and staple	do.	182.5	182.5	180.5	182.5	175.0	160.0	162.5	162.5	89
Fine 8 months (1" and over)	do.	167.5	167.5	167.5	167.5	160.0	145.0	147.5	147.5	88
Fine fall (3/4" and over)	do.	155.0	155.0	155.8	156.0	146.2	140.0	137.5	137.5	88
Imported, excluding duty										
Australian										
64's, 70's warp and ½ warp	do.	182.5	182.5	182.5	182.5	177.5	172.5	167.5	157.5	86
64's, 70's good topmaking	do.	178.0	178.0	177.9	177.5	172.5	167.5	162.5	152.5	86
64's combing	do.	172.5	172.5	172.5	172.5	167.5	162.5	157.5	147.5	86
58's, 60's combing	do.	147.5	147.5	146.5	142.5	147.5	142.5	137.5	127.5	89
Montevideo super										
0's (58's, 60's)	do.	125.5	125.5	125.5	125.5	132.5	132.5	134.1	127.8	102
1's (56's)	do.	111.0	111.0	111.0	111.0	122.5	122.5	123.9	118.2	106
2's (50's)	do.	104.5	104.5	104.5	104.5	105.5	105.5	105.5	105.5	101
3's (46's, 48's)	do.	94.5	94.5	94.5	94.5	94.5	94.5	94.5	94.5	100
4's (44's)	do.	86.5	86.5	86.5	86.5	86.5	86.5	92.9	94.5	109
5's (40's)	do.	86.5	86.5	86.5	86.5	86.5	86.5	92.9	94.5	109
Other textile fibers										
Cotton, middling 15/16" 3/	do.	32.7	32.7	32.6	33.2	34.3	33.9	34.1	34.2	103
Man-made synthetic staple fiber										
Viscose, 1½ denier 4/	do.	34.0	34.0	34.0	34.0	34.0	34.0	34.0	1/	100
Acetate, 5 denier 4/	do.	34.0	34.0	34.0	34.0	34.0	34.0	34.0	1/	100
Nylon, 3 denier 5/	do.	170.0	170.0	170.0	170.0	150.0	150.0	150.0	150.0	88
Dacron, 3, 4.5, and 6 denier 5/	do.	180.0	180.0	180.0	180.0	160.0	160.0	160.0	160.0	89
Orlon, 3, 4.5, and 6 denier 5/	do.	190.0	190.0	190.0	180.0	150.0	150.0	150.0	150.0	83
Acrilan, 3 and 5 denier 5/	do.	185.0	185.0	185.0	140.0	140.0	140.0	140.0	140.0	100
Dynel, 2, 3, 6, 12, and 24 denier 5/	do.	128.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	100
Vicara, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 7 denier 5/	do.	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100

1/ Not available.
2/ From Weekly Review of the Boston Wool Market.
3/ Average of 10 markets.
4/ From Textile Organon.
5/ From Modern Textile Magazine.

THE WOOL SITUATION

Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, February 17, 1955

SUMMARY

Wool production in the United States in 1955 is not likely to be much different from 1954. With about the same number of stock sheep on farms and ranches at the beginning of the year, shorn wool production is likely to be about the same as or even a little larger than in 1954 if the trend toward a heavier fleece weight continues. Sheep and lamb slaughter is expected to be down this year and if the average weight of wool per pelt is about the same as last year, pulled wool production would be a little lower.

Domestic mills used considerably less of both apparel and carpet wool in 1954 than the year before. The average weekly rate of apparel wool consumption was 24 percent lower than that of 1953, the lowest since 1938 and below the average for 1935-39. The lower consumption last year reflected in part a reduction of inventories of wool products in manufacturing and distribution channels early in the year. The average weekly rate of carpet wool consumption was down 14 percent from 1953.

Trade reports suggest that inventories of wool manufactures in manufacturing and distribution channels are about normal relative to sales and that unfilled orders for fabric are substantially larger than a year ago. Economic activity and consumer purchasing power are continuing at high levels, and some improvement in apparel wool consumption this year relative to last appears likely.

The average support level for domestic shorn wool for the marketing year beginning April 1 will be 62 cents per pound, greasy basis, 8.8 cents or 16.5 percent higher than that for the current season. Payments to individual producers will be based on the percentage required to bring the average return per pound (market price plus payment) up to the average support level. Market prices probably will average nearly the same as for the 1954 season but somewhat below the announced support level. In this case, price support payments will be made to producers after the end of the 1955 season.

Pulled wool will be supported through payments on marketings for slaughter of lambs and yearlings with full wool pelts. The payment per hundred pounds of live animal will be equal to 4 times the average payment per pound of shorn wool.

With the world supply slightly larger this season and demand easier, prices of wool have been below a year earlier since the opening of the current British Dominion selling season about September 1. Prices at the Dominion auctions declined gradually from the time the auctions began until shortly after the holidays. Although they advanced a little recently, prices of fine wools early in February were between 10 and 15 percent below a year earlier.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY
Part II - Supplies and Mill Activity

Item	Unit	1953 Aug.	1953 Sept.	1953 Oct.	1953 Nov.	1954 Aug.	1954 Sept.	1954 Oct.	1954 Nov. 1/	Last data available as percent of a year earlier
Imports for consumption, clean content	Million pounds									
Dutiable 2/	do.	10.0	12.8	10.6	7.9	8.7	7.5	7.9	7.3	92
60's and finer	do.	4.9	6 8	5.2	5.7	4.7	3.8	4.2	4.2	89
56's - 60's	do.					1.4	1.1	1.4	.9	
50's - 56's	do.	2.2	2.4	2.4	1.1	.9	1.0	.9	.6	73
44's - 50's	do.					.4	.7	.3	.2	
40's - 44's	do.	.8	2.0	1.4	.3	.3	.3	.5	.8	167
Not finer than 40's	do.	1.9	1.3	1.4	.7	.8	.5	.5	.5	71
Donskoi, Smyrna, etc.	do.	.2	.3	.2	.1	.2	.1	.1	.1	100
Duty-free	do.	8.4	9.5	9.5	8.2	9.1	9.7	8.7	6.0	73
Donskoi, Smyrna, etc.	do.	4.8	5.2	5.4	5.2	5.1	6.3	4.7	3.9	75
Not finer than 40's	do.	3.6	4.3	4.1	3.0	4.0	3.4	4.0	2.1	70
Accumulated since January 1										
Dutiable 2/	do.	126.4	139.2	149.8	157.7	73.9	81.4	89.3	96.6	61
60's and finer	do.	78.9	85.7	90.9	96.6	40.5	44.2	48.4	52.6	69
56's - 60's	do.					10.5	11.6	12.9	13.9	
50's - 56's	do.	21.8	24.1	26.5	27.7	8.6	9.6	10.4	11.0	55
44's - 50's	do.					2.9	3.7	4.0	4.2	
40's - 44's	do.	5.9	7.9	9.4	9.6	3.0	3.4	3.9	4.7	49
Not finer than 40's	do.	17.8	19.1	20.5	21.2	7.0	7.5	8.0	8.5	40
Donskoi, Smyrna, etc.	do.	2.0	2.3	2.5	2.6	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.5	58
Duty-free	do.	96.6	106.1	115.7	123.9	71.2	80.8	89.5	95.5	77
Donskoi, Smyrna, etc.	do.	49.8	55.1	60.5	65.7	36.6	42.9	47.6	51.5	78
Not finer than 40's	do.	46.8	51.0	55.2	58.2	34.6	37.9	41.9	44.0	76
Imports for consumption, actual weight										
Dutiable	do.	15.1	19.0	15.9	12.5	13.1	10.8	11.6	11.1	89
Duty-free	do.	12.1	13.7	13.7	11.6	12.6	13.2	12.4	8.2	71
Mill consumption, scoured basis 3/										
Per week, during month 4/										
Apparel (domestic and duty-paid foreign)	1,000 pounds	7,649	7,083	5,986	4,717	5,940	4,962	5,012	4,754	101
60's and finer	do.	3,780	3,686	3,181	2,522	3,272	2,505	2,616	2,569	102
50's up to 60's	do.	2,909	2,432	2,074	1,549	1,904	1,772	1,814	1,668	108
48's and coarser	do.	960	965	731	646	764	685	582	517	80
Carpet (duty-free foreign)	do.	2,677	2,503	2,358	2,258	2,313	2,316	2,376	2,293	102
Accumulated since January 1										
Apparel (domestic and duty-paid foreign)	Million pounds	261.4	289.7	319.7	338.5	180.8	205.6	225.7	244.6	72
60's and finer	do.	131.4	146.2	162.1	172.2	98.4	111.0	121.5	131.7	76
50's up to 60's	do.	95.8	105.5	115.9	122.0	57.9	66.7	74.0	80.6	66
48's and coarser	do.	34.2	38.0	41.7	44.3	24.5	27.9	30.2	32.3	73
Carpet (duty-free foreign)	do.	93.6	103.6	115.4	124.4	73.4	84.9	94.4	103.6	83
Woven wool fabric production 5/	Million linear yards									
Accumulated since January 1										
Apparel fabrics	do.		227.8				186.1			82
Government orders	do.		15.4				2.0			13
Men's and boys' wear	do.		102.8				84.6			82
Women's and children's wear	do.		109.6				99.5			91
Non-apparel fabrics	do.		39.2				18.7			48
Blanketing	do.		23.0				10.8			47
Other non-apparel fabrics	do.		16.2				7.9			49
Total woven fabrics	do.		267.0				204.8			77

1/ Preliminary.
2/ Includes carbonized wool which is not reported by grade.
3/ On woolen and worsted systems; excludes wool consumed on the cotton and other spinning system and in the manufacture of felts, hat bodies, and other miscellaneous products.
4/ Monthly periods are 4 or 5 calendar weeks generally totaling 13 weeks each quarter.
5/ Principally wool, reprocessed wool, or reused wool by weight.

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

The rate of world consumption during each of the first three quarters of 1954 is estimated to have been below a year earlier. The average rate for the 9 months was 11 percent below that of the like 1953 period.

SURVEY OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Prices in British Dominions Advance But Continue Below a Year Earlier

Prices of wool at the British Dominion auctions declined gradually from the time of the opening auctions early last September until shortly after the auctions were resumed after the holidays. They advanced a little recently.

Prices at the opening auctions of the season were below prices prevailing both a year earlier and at the end of the 1953-54 season in June. They have been below a year earlier since the beginning of the current season (table 1). Early in February prices of fine wools were 10 to 15 percent below a year earlier and prices of crossbreds ranged from about the same as to 10 percent below a year earlier.

Boston Quotations Below a Year Earlier

Boston quotations for Australian wools declined somewhat between early November and mid-January. The declines for most descriptions were in the neighborhood of 20 cents per pound, clean basis. Quotations for all descriptions as of early February were below a year earlier.

Quotations for Montevideo 56's and finer wools declined a little after October of last year. Prices for 46/48's and 50's descriptions have remained the same. Those for 44's and 40's wools advanced. Quotations for all Montevideo descriptions as of early February were up a little from a year earlier.

Quotations for most domestic descriptions declined sharply from last October until January and were below a year earlier during that period. As of early February, they ranged from about the same as to almost 15 percent lower than a year earlier (table 2). They had advanced from March into September 1954.

Late in January quotations for some of the quarter blood wools advanced a little. As of early February, quotations for these and lower wools were about at or slightly above loan rates, but quotations for the other wools were below loan rates (table 3). Quotations for all descriptions had been below loan rates from early November until about mid-January.

Table 1.- Price per pound of fleece wools at the London auctions, clean basis (Bradford yield), 1953-54

Week ended 1/	Good medium fleeces		Fine crossbred fleeces		Crossbred fleeces	
	64's-70's	58's 60's	56's	50's	48's	46's
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents
1953						
January 18	185.2	143.0	107.8	89.1	86.7	84.4
January 23	183.0	134.9	93.9	80.9	77.4	75.1
February 20	190.3	141.0	101.0	85.7	82.2	78.7
March 20	193.5	146.6	107.9	89.1	86.8	84.4
March 27	197.1	147.8	107.9	93.8	90.3	89.1
May 8	202.7	152.3	110.2	93.8	90.2	89.1
May 15	211.1	157.2	110.2	93.8	90.3	89.1
July 10	201.8	150.2	102.2	89.2	85.6	83.3
July 25	197.1	150.2	106.8	92.7	88.0	85.7
September 18	188.9	143.4	110.8	100.3	93.3	89.8
October 2	192.5	148.3	114.3	105.0	95.7	93.3
November 27	187.5	146.5	109.0	98.4	92.6	91.4
December 11	187.4	146.4	105.4	94.9	90.2	89.0
1954						
January 22	183.9	146.5	105.4	87.9	83.2	82.0
January 29	183.9	142.9	105.4	89.0	83.2	83.2
February 26	175.9	144.2	109.0	92.6	86.8	84.4
March 5	173.5	140.7	110.2	92.6	89.1	86.8
April 2	179.5	146.7	116.2	99.0	96.2	93.9
April 9	179.6	146.7	116.2	98.6	95.1	92.7
May 14	182.1	152.7	119.8	102.2	97.5	95.1
May 21	182.1	152.7	119.8	103.4	98.7	96.3
July 9	173.8	152.6	119.8	101.0	96.3	93.9
July 16	173.8	152.6	119.8	102.1	97.4	95.1
September 10	164.9	140.3	---	98.2	91.2	90.0
September 17	172.7	144.7	---	100.4	94.5	92.2
November 26	155.7	122.0	---	87.2	83.7	81.3
December 10	156.9	119.7	104.6	90.6	86.0	83.7
1955						
January 14	150.9	119.5	104.4	89.4	84.7	83.6
January 21	155.5	120.7	106.8	91.7	87.0	84.7

1/ Opening and closing weeks for each series.

Compiled from Kreglinger and Fernau Market reports. Prices converted from pence to cents at current rates of exchange.

Table 2.- Prices of domestic shorn wool at Boston, clean basis, for week ended February 11, 1955 with comparisons

Classification	Average 1947-49	1954 week ended Feb. 12	1954 week ended Oct. 15	1955 week ended Feb. 11	Percent change week ended February 11, from Average 1947-49	February 12, 1954	October 15, 1954
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Percent	Percent	Percent
Graded shorn							
Territory and Texas							
Fine, good French combing and staple	151.7	172.5	172.5	155.0	+ 2.2	-10.1	-10.1
1/2 blood, good French combing and staple	137.1	153.0	157.5	145.0	+ 5.8	- 5.2	- 7.9
3/8 blood, good French combing and staple	109.1	132.5	132.5	130.0	+19.2	- 1.9	- 1.9
1/4 blood, good French combing and staple	100.0	120.0	122.5	117.5	+17.5	- 2.1	- 4.1
Low 1/4 blood	89.9	106.5	107.5	105.0	+16.8	- 1.4	- 2.3
Common and braid	83.5	102.5	100.0	97.5	+16.8	- 4.9	- 2.5
Fleece							
Fine, Delaine	154.5	181.0	177.5	167.5	+ 8.4	- 7.5	- 5.6
1/2 blood, good French combing and staple	131.6	144.0	147.0	140.0	+ 6.4	- 2.8	- 4.8
3/8 blood, good French combing and staple	103.2	120.0	122.0	119.0	+15.3	- .8	- 2.5
1/4 blood, good French combing and staple	97.0	113.5	114.0	110.0	+13.4	- 3.1	- 3.5
Low 1/4 blood	78.4	106.5	107.5	105.0	+33.9	-11.4	- 2.3
Common and braid	73.4	101.0	97.5	97.5	+32.8	- 3.5	- 0
Original bag shorn							
Fine Texas							
Good French combing and staple	150.9	182.5	177.5	162.5	+ 7.7	-11.0	- 8.5
Eight months (1 inch and over)	121.0	167.5	162.5	147.5	+21.9	-12.0	- 9.2
Fall (3/4 inch and over)	110.8	157.0	145.0	137.5	+24.1	-12.4	- 5.2

Compiled from market reports of Agricultural Marketing Service.

Growers' Prices Continue to Decline

Prices received by growers in the United States for shorn wool increased from a national average of 53.6 cents per pound, grease basis, in mid-April, the first month of the current marketing season, to 55.2 cents at mid-June. They declined each month thereafter to 50.0 cents at mid-January. So far this season the mid-month averages have been a little lower than a year earlier except in June and have ranged between 87 and 94 percent of parity. Revised mid-month averages for 1954 are to be released later this month.

1955 Support Program For Wool and Mohair

The national average support level for shorn wool under the 1955 program will be 62 cents per pound, grease basis, to the producer, 106 percent of the parity price for shorn wool as of September 15, 1954. The average support level under the current program is 53.2 cents, 90 percent of the parity price as of March 15, 1954

The average support level for mohair will be 70 cents per pound, grease basis, to the producer, 91 percent of the parity price for mohair as of September 15, 1954. The average support price for mohair under the current program is 64.3 cents, 83 percent of the parity price as of March 15, 1954.

Under the 1955 program shorn wool, pulled wool, and mohair will be supported by means of payments to producers. This program is the first under the National Wool Act of 1954. Under the provisions of the Agricultural Act of 1949, support from 1950 through 1954 was provided, when necessary, through loans.

The 1955 program will apply to wool and mohair shorn on or after January 1, 1955, and marketed during the year beginning April 1, 1955, and ending on March 31, 1956. Pulled wool will be supported through payments on lambs and yearlings with full wool pelts marketed for slaughter during the year beginning April 1, 1955, and ending on March 31, 1956.

Payments for shorn wool will be based on the percentage needed to bring the national average price received by producers up to the support level. The payment to the individual producer will be an amount equal to this percent of the net sale value of his shorn wool. Mohair payments will be determined in the same manner.

Pulled wool compensating payments on marketings of lambs and yearlings will be based on the average weight of wool per hundred pounds of animal (5 pounds) and 80 percent of the difference between the national average price received by producers for shorn wool and the 1955 incentive price of 62 cents per pound of shorn wool. In short, the payment per hundred pounds of live animal will be equal to 4 times the average payment per pound of shorn wool.

Table 3.- Market quotations and 1954 loan rates per pound for domestic shorn wools, clean basis, Boston

Classification	1954 program loan rates	Boston quotations week ended February 11, 1955
	Dollars	Dollars
Graded shorn		
Territory and Texas		
Fine, good French combing and staple	1.64	1.50-1.60
Fine, average and good French combing	1.58	1.50-1.55
Fine, short French combing and clothing	1.44	1.40-1.45
½ blood, good French combing and staple	1.48	1.40-1.50
3/8 blood, good French combing and staple	1.28	1.25-1.35
¼ blood, good French combing and staple	1.20	1.15-1.20
Low ¼ blood	1.02	1.00-1.10
Common and braid	.98	.95-1.00
Fleece		
Fine, Delaine	1.66	1.65-1.70
Fine, short French combing and clothing	1.37	1.30-1.40
½ blood, good French bombing and staple	1.42	1.35-1.45
3/8 blood, good French combing and staple	1.19	1.15-1.23
¼ blood, good French combing and staple	1.14	1.06-1.14
Low ¼ blood	1.01	1.00-1.10
Common and braid	.94	.95-1.00
Original bag shorn		
Fine Texas		
Good French combing and staple	1.67	1.60-1.65
Eight months (1 inch and over)	1.48	1.45-1.50
Fall (3/4 inch and over)	1.35	1.35-1.40

Compiled from reports of Agricultural Marketing Service.

Producers will apply for payment under the program to local county Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation committee offices. The application must be accompanied by the account sales received by the producers when marketing their wool and mohair clips and their lambs and yearlings. Further, to qualify for payments on marketings of lambs and yearlings, producers must also present to ASC county offices a certification by the slaughterer that the animals were bought for slaughter and had full wool pelts.

Number of Sheep and Lambs Down 1 Percent

Sheep and lambs on farms and ranches, including those on feed, amounted to 30.9 million head on January 1, 1955, compared with 31.2 million head a year earlier. The number of stock sheep totaled 27.0 million head, a decline of less than 1 percent from a year earlier (table 4). The number on feed, 4.0 million head, was 4 percent lower than a year earlier. An increase of 9 percent in the number of ewe lambs points to some upturn in breeding ewes this year unless unfavorable conditions force liquidation. Inventory changes from a year earlier show declines for all other classes of sheep as follows: wether and ram lambs, 15 percent; ewes one year old and over, 1 percent; wethers one year old and over, 22 percent; and sheep and lambs on feed, 4 percent.

A decline of 1 percent in the number of stock sheep in the 13 Western States (11 Western, Texas, and South Dakota)was partially offset by increases in the Native States. The number of stock sheep in Texas, which had 19 percent of the total, was the same as a year earlier.

8 Percent More Goats in Texas

Prospects are that mohair production will be up a little this year compared with 1954. The number of goats in Texas, which in 1953 accounted for nearly 95 percent of total mohair production, on January 1, 1955, 2.2 million head, was 8 percent above the number on January 1, 1954. Although slaughter was considerably higher last year than in 1953, the kid crop was larger and death losses were smaller.

World Production Up a Little This Season

Late last November Foreign Agricultural Service estimated that world production during the 1954-55 season would be a new record, 4,430 million pounds, grease basis (table 5). The 1954-55 estimate is about 70 million pounds above the quantity produced during 1953-54.

Estimates for most countries are as high as or higher than for 1953-54. The major exceptions are Argentina and the Soviet Union. The estimated lower production in Argentina is attributed mainly to the severe winter in the Southern part of the country. Production in Argentina has been declining since 1946 and is now the lowest since 1937. The decline in the Soviet Union reflects the severe winter of 1953-54 and inadequate feed supplies.

Exports from British Dominions Increased Last Season; Those from South America Declined

Exports of wool from each of the 3 British Dominions--Australia, New Zealand, and the Union of South Africa--were a little larger during 1953-54 than during 1952-53 (table 6). The increases ranged from 7 million pounds, actual weight, or a little less than 1 percent for Australia to 12 million pounds, or almost 6 percent, for the Union of South Africa. The increases reflect the larger quantities available for export.

Table 4.- Number of stock sheep and lambs on farms and ranches, by class, United States, January 1, 1942-55

Year	Lambs		One year and over			Total stock sheep
	Ewes	Rams and wethers	Ewes	Rams	Wethers	
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head
1942	7,864	1,778	37,361	1,446	897	49,346
1943	6,928	1,643	37,303	1,434	888	48,196
1944	6,142	1,951	33,991	1,345	841	44,270
1945	4,782	1,513	31,280	1,264	770	39,609
1946	4,765	1,530	27,619	1,100	511	35,525
1947	4,199	1,415	24,790	994	407	31,805
1948	4,058	1,144	23,013	901	370	29,486
1949	3,827	974	20,976	829	334	26,940
1950	3,908	1,109	20,057	790	318	26,182
1951	4,512	1,146	20,457	823	315	27,253
1952	5,065	831	21,034	843	277	28,050
1953	3,987	842	21,738	871	262	27,700
1954	3,665	843	21,490	851	252	27,101
1955 1/	3,982	720	21,240	840	197	26,979

1/ Preliminary.

Table 5.- Production of wool in specified countries, grease basis, 1948-54

Country	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953 1/	1954 1/
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
Argentina	419.0	415.0	430.0	420.0	407.0	400.0	390.0
Australia	1,031.0	1,110.0	1,117.5	1,080.0	1,281.1	1,244.0	1,300.0
New Zealand	367.0	390.0	390.0	406.7	418.0	425.0	434.0
Union of South Africa	219.0	217.5	227.5	240.0	256.8	264.6	280.0
United States	278.4	248.5	247.8	251.4	266.0	271.3	2/
Uruguay	144.0	163.3	185.0	187.4	189.8	202.5	210.0
Other countries	1,311.6	1,345.7	1,402.2	1,464.5	1,531.3	1,552.6	1,544.0
Estimated world total	3,770.0	3,890.0	4,000.0	4,050.0	4,350.0	4,360.0	4,430.0

1/ Preliminary.
2/ Estimate to be released February 25, 1955.

Data for United States from reports of Agricultural Marketing Service; data for other countries and world totals from reports of Foreign Agricultural Service.

Exports from Argentina and Uruguary were much smaller than during the previous season. Although production in both countries was a little larger than in 1952-53, considerably less old-clip wool was available for sale and export.

Table 6.- Exports of wool, actual weight, from Southern Hemisphere surplus-producing countries, 1950-51, 1951-52, 1952-53 and 1953-54 seasons 1/

Exporting country	1950-51	1951-52	1952-53	1953-54
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.
Australia	1,022	906	1,066	1,073
New Zealand	262	458	383	387
Union of South Africa	197	214	217	229
Argentina	169	92	462	196
Uruguay 2/	132	50	215	120

1/ Season beginning July 1 in Australia, New Zealand, and Union of South Africa and season beginning October 1 in Argentina and Uruguay.

Compiled from reports of the Commonwealth Economic Committee.

Table 7.- Exports of wool, actual weight, from British Dominions, 1952-53, 1953-54 and 1954-55 seasons through October 1/

Exporting country	1952-53	1953-54	1954-55
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.
Australia	262	304	259
New Zealand	58	49	50
Union of South Africa 2/	73	78	77
Argentina	39	10	15
Uruguay 2/	30	7	6

1/ Season beginning July 1 in Australia, New Zealand, and Union of South Africa and season beginning October 1 in Argentina and Uruguay.
2/ Through November.

Compiled from reports of Commonwealth Economic Committee.

1954-55 Exports from British Dominions Down from Early 1953-54

Total exports from Australia, New Zealand, and the Union of South Africa during the early months of the current selling season in those countries were down a little from early last season (table 7). The quantity exported from Australia was somewhat smaller than early in 1953-54 while the quantities shipped out of the other two countries were about the same as in early 1953-54.

U. S. Imports of Dutiable Wool Much Lower Last Year

Imports of dutiable wool during the first 11 months of 1954 totaled 148.4 million pounds, actual weight, or about 96.6 million pounds, clean content. The quantity imported was about 61.1 million pounds, clean, or about 39 percent lower than for the same months of 1953 reflecting reduced domestic demand.

Imports trended sharply downward over 1953 with less than half as much wool imported during the final quarter as during the first. Last year the downward trend was very slight.

British Dominion wool accounted for 68.8 percent of the dutiable imports last year compared with 45.6 percent in 1953 (table 8). The proportion from Australia increased from 25.7 percent in 1953 to 40.6 percent last year.

Imports of 56's and finer wools were down 31 percent and imports of coarser wools dropped 51 percent. Wools grading 56's and finer accounted for 69 percent of the total.

Table 8.- Percentage distribution of United States imports of wool by country of origin, January-October 1953-54

Country	Duty-free		Dutiable		Total	
	1953	1954	1953	1954	1953	1954
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Australia	0.1	1/	25.7	40.6	14.6	20.3
New Zealand	9.7	9.9	14.4	15.1	12.3	12.5
Union of South Africa	.7	1.1	5.5	13.1	3.4	7.1
Argentina	48.9	45.1	31.5	14.5	39.1	29.8
Uruguay	.1	0	18.6	11.8	10.5	5.9
Other countries	40.5	43.9	4.3	4.9	20.1	24.4
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

1/ Less than 0.05 percent.

Derived from reports of U. S. Department of Commerce.

1954 U. S. Imports of Duty-free Wool Down About One-Fourth from 1953

Imports of "named" wools and wools not finer than 40's which entered duty-free for use in the manufacture of floor coverings, heavy fulled lumbermen's socks, and knit or felt boots during the first 11 months of last year came to 136.0 million pounds, actual weight, or 95.5 million pounds, clean content. The comparable 1953 figures were 181.8 million pounds, actual weight, or 123.9 million pounds, clean content. The January-November total was about 8 million pounds, clean, lower than reported mill consumption for those months.

Imports fluctuated from month to month and there was no significant trend over the year. During 1953, imports declined sharply particularly over the first 8 months of the year.

Argentine wools accounted for 45.1 percent of total duty-free imports compared with 48.9 percent in 1953. The proportion from New Zealand, 9.9 percent, was about the same as the previous year.

CCC Holdings Larger Than A Year Ago

As of the end of 1954, the Commodity Credit Corporation held 110.3 million pounds, actual weight, or roughly 55 million pounds clean. These holdings consisted of wool acquired under the 1952 and 1953 price support programs. A total of 137 million pounds, actual weight, or about 67 million pounds, clean, was acquired under the two programs. This wool is not for sale at less than 103 percent of the 1954 loan rates plus selling commission.

Holdings as of the end of the year were up about 13.4 million pounds, actual weight, from a year earlier. CCC will acquire no wool under the 1955 payments program.

Slightly More Wool Under Loan Than A Year Ago

About 34.5 million pounds, actual weight, of wool were under loan under the 1954 support program as of December 31. Of the total, 25.0 million pounds were under non-recourse loan and 9.5 million pounds were under recourse loan.

A year earlier, 31.3 million pounds were under loan under the 1953 program.

To be eligible under the 1954 program, wool must be offered for appraisal not later than February 28, 1955.

January 1 Carpet Wool Stocks Substantially Lower Than A Year Earlier

Manufacturer and dealer holdings of carpet wool ("named" wools and wools not finer than 40's, both free and dutiable) at the end of 1954 are reported to have been 30.3 million pounds, scoured basis. This is a decline of almost 7 million pounds during the fourth quarter and a reduction of 12 million pounds from January 2, 1954.

Of the reduction from a year earlier, 8.5 million pounds were in manufacturers' holdings, which accounted for over 80 percent of the total stocks.

World Consumption Declined During Third Quarter of 1954

World consumption of wool during the third quarter of 1954 is estimated by the Commonwealth Economic Committee to have been about 7 percent lower than during the previous 3 months and 11 percent lower than during July-September 1953. The total for the first three quarters of 1954 was 11 percent below the corresponding 1953 figure.

During the 9 month period, consumption was lower than a year earlier in all of the major consuming countries except France. The largest decline --about 26 percent--took place in the United States.

U. S. Apparel Wool Consumption Declined Sharply Last Year

Woolen and worsted mills used about 268 million pounds, scoured basis, of apparel wool last year, about one-fourth less than in 1953. The total was the lowest since 1938 and below the 1935-39 average. The average weekly rate of consumption was below a year earlier each month through October, but a little above during November and December (table 9). A factor in the lower consumption in 1954 relative to 1953 was a reduction in inventories of wool products in manufacturing and distribution channels early in the year.

Consumption declined sharply during the final quarter of 1953, increased gradually thereafter through August of 1954, and then declined slightly through December, the latest month for which information is available.

The decline in the use of fine wools was somewhat less than that for other wools: consumption of 60's and finer wools was down 22 percent while that of coarser wools was down 31 percent (table 10).

The rate of consumption on the woolen system was 18 percent lower than in 1953 while that on the worsted system was down 31 percent (table 11).

Indications are that average per capita mill use of apparel wool for civilian goods during the last 6 years was about one-tenth lower than prewar. Among the factors which more than offset the effect of a sharp increase in consumer purchasing power and other factors which would normally be expected to result in an upward trend in consumption were: an unusually high level of mill consumption of wool for civilian goods immediately following World War II - the increase was out of proportion to the increase in real income; a continuation of the trend toward lighter-weight clothing; increased competition from other budgetary items for the consumer's dollar; increased competition from other fiber, particularly man-made fiber; and increased imports of wool manufactures.

Table 9.- Weekly rate of consumption of apparel and carpet wool on woolen and worsted systems, scoured basis, United States, by months, 1950-54

Classification	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
1950												
Apparel	8,006	8,837	8,518	7,943	8,268	8,084	7,370	9,901	9,015	9,671	7,871	7,393
Carpet	3,974	3,977	3,989	4,208	4,097	3,725	2,448	3,989	3,710	4,223	3,712	3,638
Total	11,980	12,814	12,507	12,151	12,365	11,809	9,818	13,890	12,725	13,894	11,583	11,031
1951												
Apparel	8,192	7,496	7,020	8,754	8,609	8,541	6,282	7,320	6,912	6,360	6,368	6,300
Carpet	3,416	3,410	3,268	2,507	1,807	1,622	413	1,040	1,069	1,556	1,663	1,761
Total	11,608	10,906	10,288	11,261	10,416	10,163	6,695	8,360	7,981	7,916	8,031	8,061
1952												
Apparel	5,904	6,218	5,971	5,876	6,277	6,779	6,335	7,621	7,784	7,656	7,120	6,725
Carpet	2,261	2,513	2,385	2,265	2,033	1,403	1,289	2,305	2,730	2,648	2,824	3,029
Total	8,165	8,731	8,356	8,141	8,310	8,182	7,624	9,926	10,514	10,304	9,944	9,754
1953												
Apparel	7,033	7,599	7,704	7,472	8,075	8,034	6,526	7,649	7,083	5,986	4,717	4,118
Carpet	2,869	3,238	3,295	2,929	2,450	2,622	1,490	2,677	2,503	2,358	2,258	2,137
Total	9,902	10,837	10,999	10,401	10,525	10,656	8,016	10,326	9,586	8,344	6,975	6,255
1954												
Apparel	4,663	4,934	4,904	5,434	5,760	5,617	5,325	5,940	4,962	5,012	4,761	4,611
Carpet	2,460	2,447	2,348	2,309	2,080	1,857	1,476	2,313	2,316	2,376	2,293	2,291
Total	7,123	7,381	7,252	7,743	7,840	7,474	6,801	8,253	7,278	7,388	7,054	6,902

1/ As defined in the Wool Products labeling Act of 1939. Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 10.- Percentage distribution of apparel wool consumption, by grades, January-November, 1946-54

Grade	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
60's and finer	54.8	62.0	62.8	54.3	56.1	58.8	51.0	50.9	53.8
50's up to 60's	31.3	25.6	26.6	35.5	34.7	32.5	35.9	36.0	33.0
48's and coarser	13.9	12.4	10.6	10.2	9.2	8.7	13.1	13.1	13.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 11.- Percentage distribution of apparel wool consumption on woolen and worsted systems, United States, 1946-54

System	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Worsted	56.9	64.0	65.8	59.1	67.3	58.9	53.9	57.3	52.8
Woolen	43.1	36.0	34.2	40.9	32.7	41.1	46.1	42.7	47.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Derived from reports of the Bureau of Census.

U. S. Mills Used Less Carpet Wool Last Year Than in 1953

Mills used 115 million pounds, scoured basis, of carpet wool (duty-free foreign wool) during 1954. The average weekly rate of mill consumption was down 14 percent from 1953. It was below a year earlier each month through September but slightly above during the last 3 months of the year.

The rate of consumption of other fiber in the spinning of carpet and rug yarn on the woolen and worsted systems was 10 percent lower than in 1953. Such fiber accounted for 26.8 percent of the total compared with 25.5 in 1953 (table 12).

Table 12.-- Percentage distribution of fibers consumed for spinning of carpet and rug yarns on the woolen and worsted systems, United States, by months, 1950-54

Fiber	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Year
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Shorn and pulled wool of the sheep													
1950	80.3	80.3	81.2	81.6	81.6	79.1	75.5	78.4	78.5	76.8	74.7	74.2	79.2
1951	73.9	71.4	72.5	63.0	54.6	52.0	38.7	56.2	57.4	65.5	64.5	69.8	64.5
1952	71.1	73.8	72.0	72.4	70.9	74.5	75.1	78.5	75.2	74.2	75.5	73.9	73.8
1953	73.6	73.4	73.4	74.9	73.0	74.0	74.7	77.7	75.8	74.3	75.5	75.3	74.6
1954	73.5	75.1	76.2	75.2	74.8	72.0	69.3	71.0	73.5	70.4	72.1		
Other wool 1/													
1950	3.4	3.8	3.4	3.0	3.1	3.8	3.1	4.6	3.2	3.3	3.1	2.7	3.4
1951	2.5	2.8	3.3	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.7	2.8	2.1	2.4	2.0	3.7	3.0
1952	2.7	2.1	3.2	3.8	4.3	2.4	2.4	2.3	4.0	4.3	4.6	4.2	3.5
1953	4.0	5.5	5.0	5.3	4.3	6.6	4.8	4.9	4.7	5.8	5.2	5.7	5.1
1954	1.9	1.7	2.0	2.2	2.2	1.9	3.4	2.0	1.9	2.8	2.5		
Reused and reprocessed wool 1/													
1950	10.8	9.2	9.7	9.4	9.2	10.1	11.5	8.7	9.8	9.7	10.2	8.7	9.7
1951	9.2	9.6	8.9	9.1	9.2	8.5	13.1	5.0	8.5	6.8	7.3	5.8	8.5
1952	6.8	5.9	4.7	4.8	5.9	8.4	10.4	6.2	5.9	5.6	4.4	4.6	5.9
1953	5.4	4.0	5.0	4.8	5.9	4.8	7.1	4.1	5.0	4.4	7.7	4.4	5.1
1954	7.3	7.5	8.3	6.7	7.3	8.9	9.3	9.7	9.0	7.6	7.7		
Rayon (staple and other)													
1950	2.4	4.0	3.0	3.4	3.8	4.5	5.5	5.7	5.8	7.2	9.4	12.3	5.6
1951	11.7	13.8	13.4	22.0	29.4	31.9	37.1	31.4	27.7	21.5	22.3	17.5	20.8
1952	17.4	15.8	18.6	17.6	17.2	12.2	9.6	11.5	13.2	14.2	14.0	16.1	15.1
1953	15.3	16.0	15.6	14.0	15.7	13.7	12.7	11.0	13.4	14.5	10.7	13.5	14.1
1954	16.2	14.4	12.3	14.5	14.8	15.9	17.6	16.4	14.8	17.4	16.6		
Other fiber													
1950	3.1	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.3	2.5	4.4	2.6	2.7	3.0	2.6	2.1	2.1
1951	2.7	2.4	1.9	2.4	3.2	4.0	7.4	4.6	4.3	3.8	3.9	3.2	3.2
1952	2.0	2.4	1.5	1.4	1.7	2.5	2.5	1.5	1.7	1.7	1.5	1.2	1.7
1953	1.7	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.1	0.9	0.7	1.4	1.1	1.0	0.9	1.1	1.1
1954	1.1	1.3	1.2	1.4	0.9	1.3	0.4	0.9	0.8	1.8	1.1		

1/ As defined in the Wool Products Labeling Act of 1939. Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

About 46.3 million square yards of woven wool and blended carpets and rugs were produced during January-October 1954, a decline of 20 percent from 1953.

Woolen and Worsted Fabric
Production Down During 1954

Twenty-three percent less woven woolen and worsted fabric (fabric containing by weight 50 percent or more wool, reused wool, or reprocessed wool) was produced during the first three quarters of 1954 than during the corresponding period of 1953 (table 13). The yardage of apparel fabric was 18 percent lower while that of non-apparel was down 52 percent.

Deliveries toward Government orders accounted for about 1 percent of the total quantity of apparel fabric. The yardage produced for the Government was only 13 percent of that of 1953. Men's and boys' fabrics were down 18 percent while fabrics for women's and children's wear were down 9 percent.

The decline in non-apparel fabric reflects a drop of 53 percent in blanketing and of 51 percent in other non-apparel fabric.

Output during the third quarter was about 15 percent below a year earlier with apparel fabric down 8 percent and non-apparel down 61 percent. Output of both men's and boys' wear fabric and women's and children's wear fabric was down 4 percent. Third quarter output of fabric other than felt was up about 5 percent from the second quarter. The increase reflected an increase of 7 percent in apparel fabric. Output of non-apparel was down 16 percent. Government orders and men's and boys' fabrics were down 7 percent but women's and children's fabrics increased 19 percent.

1954 Cuttings of Men's Tailored
Clothing Below 1953

Average weekly cuttings of all categories of men's tailored clothing last year were below 1953. The declines, by type, were: regular-weight suits, 10.5 percent; summer-weight suits, 3.8 percent; separate dress and sports trousers, 3.3 percent; and overcoats and topcoats, 24.0 percent (table 14).

Information as to fiber content of the fabric used is now available for only two categories: summer-weight suits and separate dress and sports trousers. The quantity of both categories cut from fabric containing 50 percent or more wool was about the same as in 1953 while the quantity cut from other fabrics was a little lower (table 15).

There has been a marked downward trend in production of regular-weight suits during the post World War II years, but a sharp upward trend is indicated for summer-weight suits and separate dress and sports trousers.

Table 13.- Woolen and worsted fabric production in the United States, January-September 1951-54 1/

Fabric	1951	1952	1953	1954	Percentage change 1954 from- 1952	1953
	1,000 linear yards	1,000 linear yards	1,000 linear yards	1,000 linear yards	Percent	Percent
Woven fabric (except felt)	284,075	255,580	267,026	204,840	-19.9	-23.3
Apparel	238,382	224,445	227,842	186,130	-17.1	-18.3
Government orders	71,848	53,735	15,422	1,984	-96.3	-87.1
Other than Government orders	166,534	170,710	212,420	184,146	+ 7.9	-13.3
Men's and boys'	86,408	78,022	102,804	2/ 84,642	+ 8.5	-17.7
Woolen	29,401	36,690	45,707	34,897	- 4.9	-23.7
Worsted	57,007	41,332	57,097	44,399	+ 7.4	-22.2
Women's and children's	80,126	92,688	109,616	2/ 99,504	+ 7.4	- 9.2
Woolen	62,215	78,356	92,066	79,791	+ 1.8	-13.3
Worsted	17,911	14,332	17,550	12,130	-15.4	-30.9
Non-apparel	45,693	31,135	39,184	18,710	-39.9	-52.3
Blanketing	22,973	17,134	22,973	10,750	-37.3	-53.2
Government orders	11,937	5,647	6,257	3/	---	---
Other than Government orders	11,036	11,487	16,716	3/	---	---
Other non-apparel	22,720	14,001	16,211	7,960	-43.2	-50.9
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds		
Woven felt	9,117	5,996	7,409	7,397	-23.4	- 0.2

1/ Principally wool, reprocessed wool, or reused wool by weight. Blanketing in 72 inch width or equivalent. Other fabrics in 54 to 60 inch widths or equivalent 54 inch width.

2/ Includes fabrics 20 oz. and over for which breakdown not available. 3/ Not available.

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 14.- Cuttings of specified items of men's tailored clothing, United States, 1952-54

Type of garment	Number of garments cut 1952 (52 weeks)	1953 (53 weeks)	1954 (52 weeks)	Percentage change in weekly average rate-1954 from 1952	1953
	Thous.	Thous.	Thous.	Pct.	Pct.
Suits, total	19,336	21,665	19,375	+0.2	-8.9
Regular - weight	15,110	16,292	14,307	-5.3	-10.5
50 percent or more wool	13,913	14,841	---	---	---
Other	1,197	1,451	---	---	---
Summer - weight	4,226	5,373	5,068	+19.9	-3.8
50 percent or more wool	1,173	1,626	1,797	+53.1	+12.7
Man-made fibers	2,918	3,565	3,001	+2.9	-14.3
Other	135	182	270	+100.0	+52.9
Separate dress and sport trousers	45,785	56,267	53,400	+16.6	-3.3
50 percent or more wool	14,922	16,885	17,736	+18.9	+7.1
Chiefly rayon and other synthetics	28,158	34,649)	35,664)	+15.6	-7.7
Chiefly cotton	2,705	4,733)			
Overcoats and topcoats	5,318	5,694	4,245	-20.2	-24.0

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 15.- Percentage distribution of cuttings of men's tailored clothing by fiber content and type of garment, United States, 1951-54

Type of garment	1951	1952	1953	1954
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Suits				
Regular - weight	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
50 percent or more wool	92.1	92.1	91.1	---
Other	7.9	7.9	8.9	---
Summer - weight	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
50 percent or more wool	35.0	27.8	30.3	35.5
Man-made fibers	61.2	69.0	66.4	59.2
Other	3.8	3.2	3.3	5.3
Separate dress and sport trousers	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
50 percent or more wool	30.7	32.6	30.0	33.2
Chiefly rayon and other synthetics	63.4	61.5	61.6)	66.8
Chiefly cotton	5.9	5.9	8.4)	

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

More Women's Coats Cut Last Year; Cuttings of Other Outerwear Garments Almost As High As In 1953

Almost 2 million more women's, misses's and juniors' coats were cut during 1954 than during 1953. Cuttings of skirts and suits were almost a high as in 1953. Cuttings of unit-priced dresses, however, were down almost 5 million units or 4 percent (table 16). Slightly less than 58 percent of the unit-priced dresses were cut from rayon and acetate fabric. In 1953 the percentage was almost 61.5 percent. The proportion of suits cut from rayon and acetate fabric last year also was lower than the year before--49.8 percent compared with 54.5 percent.

1953 Cuttings of Girls', Children's and Infants' Outerwear

Since publication of the last issue of this situation, the Bureau of the Census has released information relating to production of girls', children's, and infants' outerwear. The patterns of production and type of fabric used were mixed relative to 1952. More coats, ski and snow suits, ski and snow pants and leggings, suits, and skirts were produced. Cuttings of coat and legging and coat and snow pants sets, slacks, and slack suits were lower (table 17).

Wool and fabric other than cotton and rayon accounted for larger proportions of cuttings of coats, coat and legging and coat and snow pants sets, ski and snow suits, suits, and slacks than in 1952.

Consumers Continue to Spend Smaller Proportion of Their Income for Clothing

The Department of Commerce recently released revised data on consumer expenditures for clothing back to 1929. Also, a breakdown of such expenditure between women's and children's clothing and men's and boys' clothing was made available at the same time.

The data indicate a sharp decline after 1946 in the proportion of both consumer income available for spending and total consumer expenditure spent on clothing. The proportions in 1953, 6.5 and 7.1 percent, were 11 and 15 percent below the respective 1935-39 averages (table 18). Preliminary data for last year suggest a further decline in the proportions.

Table 16.- Cuttings of specified items of women's, misses', and juniors' outerwear and percentage distribution by fiber content, United States, 1950-54

Type of garment	Unit	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954 1/
Dresses (unit-priced)	Thousands	139,607	138,868	145,919	142,876	137,100
Rayon and acetate	Percent	72.0	69.5	65.9	61.4	57.7
Cotton	Percent	21.3	23.7	25.6	28.5)	
Nylon	Percent)		.8	2.4	2.8)	42.3
Wool	Percent)	6.7	3.6	3.7	4.1)	
Other	Percent)		2.4	2.4	3.2)	
Skirts	Thousands	57,408	54,720	66,612	72,864	72,420
Rayon and acetate	Percent	41.9	44.6	42.4	38.6	---
Cotton	Percent	29.9	31.3	33.5	34.3	---
Nylon	Percent)		.8	.6	.3	---
Wool	Percent)	28.2	22.8	22.3	24.6	---
Other	Percent)		.5	1.2	2.2	---
Suits	Thousands	18,048	18,178	16,648	14,264	14,143
Rayon and acetate	Percent	41.6	59.7	61.1	54.5	49.8
Cotton	Percent	1.8	1.5	2.7	3.5)	
Wool	Percent)	56.6	37.8	35.1	40.9)	50.2
Other	Percent)		1.0	1.1	1.1)	
Coats	Thousands	24,703	23,902	26,628	24,033	25,979
Untrimmed	Thousands	22,598	21,995	24,836	22,703	---
Rayon and acetate	Percent	9.5	22.1	13.9	9.3	---
Cotton	Percent	1.4	1.2	1.1	1.4	---
Wool	Percent)	89.1	76.5	84.8	88.0	---
Other	Percent)		.2	.2	1.3	---
Fur-trimmed	Thousands	2,105	1,907	1,792	1,330	---
Rayon and acetate	Percent	---	7.3	10.0	4.0	---
Cotton	Percent	---	2/	2/	---	---
Wool	Percent	---	92.7	90.0	96.0	---

1/ Preliminary.
2/ Less than 0.05 percent.

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 17.- Percentage distribution of specified items of children's and infants' outerwear by fiber content, United States, 1948-53

Item	1948	1949 1/	1950	1951	1952	1953
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Coats (including capes and reversibles)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Cotton	2.9	2.9	3.5	3.8	2.3	2.4
Rayon and acetate	2.6	2.9	8.0	15.5	15.7	14.7
Wool and other	94.5	94.2	88.5	80.7	82.0	82.9
Coat-and-legging and coat-and-snow pants sets	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Cotton	1.3	1.2	3.1	4.9	7.6	7.9
Rayon and acetate	---	0.1	1.4	5.8	10.5	7.5
Wool and other	98.7	98.7	95.5	89.3	81.9	84.6
Ski and snow suits	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Cotton	43.7	36.9	32.7	25.5	27.8	23.8
Rayon and acetate	9.3	15.6	30.8	42.6	34.4	34.9
Wool and other	47.0	47.5	36.5	31.9	37.8	41.3
Ski and snow pants and leggings	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Cotton	14.1	26.5	16.6	20.6	8.9	9.5
Rayon and acetate	---	0.1	1.6	1.0	10.0	14.3
Wool and other	85.9	73.4	81.8	78.4	81.1	76.2
Suits (except ski and snow suits and slack suits)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Cotton	11.2	15.6	25.0	35.9	29.8	21.9
Rayon	---	16.3	33.2	44.5	54.6	61.3
Wool and other	88.8	68.1	41.8	19.6	15.6	16.8
Skirts	---	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Cotton	---	36.8	40.7	40.1	47.3	48.2
Rayon and acetate	---	5.6	10.7	16.1	20.0	20.0
Wool and other	---	57.6	48.6	43.8	32.7	31.8
Slacks	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Cotton	77.6	82.0	83.6	83.9	83.6	78.6
Rayon and acetate	22.4	1.5	3.5	8.7	11.5	15.6
Wool and other		16.5	12.9	7.4	4.9	5.8
Slack suits	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Cotton	89.7	85.4	66.4	72.6	26.4	14.5
Rayon and acetate	10.3	3.8	10.0	13.3	67.5	83.4
Wool and other		10.8	23.6	14.1	6.1	2.1
Jackets	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Cotton	70.4	72.3	79.7	64.9	71.5	66.3
Rayon and acetate	---	0.5	8.8	23.1	12.7	19.5
Wool and other	29.6	27.2	11.5	12.0	15.8	14.2

1/ Derived from preliminary data.
Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 18.- Personal consumption expenditure for clothing related to disposable income and total consumer personal expenditure, United States, 1929-53

Year	Expenditure for women's and children's clothing	Expenditure for men's and boys' clothing	Total clothing expenditure as a percent of	
			Disposable income	Consumer expenditure
	Million dollars	Million dollars	Percent	Percent
1929	4,662	3,020	9.2	9.7
1930	4,100	2,559	9.0	9.4
1931	3,528	2,185	9.0	9.3
1932	2,446	1,576	8.3	8.2
1933	2,254	1,477	8.2	8.0
1934	2,801	1,784	8.8	8.8
1935	3,080	1,902	8.5	8.8
1936	3,226	2,177	8.2	8.6
1937	3,277	2,269	7.8	8.2
1938	3,337	2,158	8.4	8.5
1939	3,607	2,286	8.4	8.7
1940	3,766	2,387	8.1	8.6
1941	4,348	2,784	7.7	8.7
1942	5,341	3,196	7.3	9.5
1943	6,940	3,546	7.9	10.4
1944	7,838	3,809	7.9	10.6
1945	8,796	4,313	8.7	10.8
1946	9,728	5,369	9.5	10.3
1947	9,963	5,647	9.2	9.5
1948	10,736	5,714	8.8	9.3
1949	9,929	5,442	8.2	8.5
1950	9,655	5,499	7.4	7.8
1951	10,275	5,811	7.1	7.7
1952	10,675	5,913	7.0	7.6
1953	10,603	5,666	6.5	7.1

From reports of U. S. Department of Commerce.

Table 19.- Percentage distribution of production of sweaters, knit jackets, and jerseys, by fiber content and type, United States, 1948-53

Class and product	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Men's	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
All wool	77.9	76.4	76.0	71.1	70.8	74.1
Part wool - 25 percent or more wool	6.9	6.5	9.3	10.3	7.8	8.6
Other	15.2	17.1	14.7	18.6	21.4	17.3
Women's						
Sweaters and jerseys	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
All wool	74.8	68.8	64.2	58.9	55.3	54.2
All nylon	25.2	31.2	28.7	31.4	29.8	20.9
Other			7.1	9.7	14.9	24.9
Cardigans	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
All wool	91.3	85.7	85.9	74.7	74.0	63.8
All nylon	8.7	14.3	7.8	15.7	15.5	11.3
Other			6.3	9.6	10.5	24.9
Boys'	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
All wool	73.7	69.2	64.7	47.4	61.1	52.3
Part wool - 25 percent or more wool	7.7	9.3	9.0	11.5	8.8	6.8
Other	18.6	21.5	26.3	41.1	30.1	40.9
Girls'	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
All wool	97.5	90.4	79.8	69.9	62.2	45.4
All nylon	2.5	9.6	16.9	24.5	34.9	43.3
Other			3.3	5.6	2.9	11.3
Children's	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
All wool	78.7	75.6	62.0	50.3	49.8	41.2
Other	21.3	24.4	38.0	49.7	50.2	58.8
Infants'	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
All wool	85.0	75.0	73.5	64.9	59.7	53.7
Other	15.0	25.0	26.5	35.1	40.3	46.3

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.